

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 2  
**Output Group:** 2.2 - New Apprenticeships

#### **DEST Question No. E112\_07**

Senator Wong asked on 1 June 2006, EWRE Hansard page 61.

#### **Question:**

What is the difference between Job Network and New Apprenticeships Centres? How do you manage their conflict of interest and how do you propose to do that, whether you have a set of standards or principles against which you would judge what is put to you? Protocols for how it is approved as part of the contract.

#### **Answer:**

##### *Job Network and Australian Apprenticeships Centres*

Job Network Members are directly contracted to the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) to provide job seeker support services, including Job Search Support and Intensive Support. Australian Apprenticeships Centres (formerly known as New Apprenticeships Centres) are directly contracted to DEST to provide a free service to employers to provide information and advice on Australian Apprenticeships, assist employers and apprentices sign into a Training Contract, liaise with the employer and apprentice during the apprenticeship and administer the Australian Government's incentives for employers and personal benefits for apprentices.

Australian Apprenticeships Support Services tenderers were required to disclose in their tenders any potential or actual conflicts of interest that they may have or may be perceived to have in respect of their responsibilities to the Australian Government and other parties in the course of delivering the services. Tenderers were also required to specify how they will identify and manage the potential for perceived or actual conflicts of interest if they arise.

The tenderers Conflict of Interest Management Plan, once agreed to by DEST, forms part of the contract (attached as a Schedule to the contract). As these Conflict of Interest Management Plans form part of each Australian Apprenticeships Centre's Contract they are monitored by DEST as part of Contract compliance. To ensure the robustness of this monitoring, DEST has included provision for the exchange of information in relation to actual or perceived conflicts of interest in Memoranda of Understanding it will establish with each State and Territory Training Authority.

Australian Apprenticeships Centres are required to assist DEST to monitor and evaluate the provision of the Australian Apprenticeships Support Services by informing DEST as soon as possible of any changes in arrangements for the provision of Australian Apprenticeships Support Services including changes to key personnel and changes to the overall structure of the organisation which may affect plans for the management of conflict of interest or the organisation's capacity to deliver the strategies for which they have been contracted.